

STRETCHING PENNIES . . .



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
20 South Twelfth Street • Philadelphia, Pa.

THREE are thousands of men, women, and children all over the world who are cold—who do not have sufficient warm, decent clothing to withstand the elements. In its efforts to alleviate some of this suffering, the AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE collects tons of clothing to be distributed in certain areas in the Americas and England, also in Europe and Asia as way opens.

The clothing may be new or old—the only requirement being that it be made of good material with much durable wear still in it. It is distributed among people who have few other clothes and who, therefore, give it hard wear.

Some groups and individuals are able to contribute new garments made from new materials. Others who want to share in this work and who have little money to spend, can make an important contribution in many other ways. The following suggestions are for those who want to make their money go as far as possible—they are suggestions for "stretching pennies."

1. Repair of warm outer garments

Many coats are needed, but seldom does the Committee receive a gift of a new coat for a man, woman, or child. A great service is rendered when a used coat is cleaned (if needed) and repaired. Silk dresses not much needed as dresses, make excellent linings for coats if they are of strong enough material to stand more wear.

Children's sweaters, outgrown but not worn out, make excellent gifts. Washing may be all that is

necessary. Perhaps a few small holes need darning, or a button is missing and needs to be replaced.

Men's clothes—suits, trousers, coats—are greatly needed. Usually the Committee's only source is second-hand. These cleaned and repaired will find grateful wearers.

But don't waste your time laboriously repairing an article that even when repaired has only the promise of a short life ahead.

2. Remaking garments

Dresses for little girls, pants for little boys can sometimes be made from the good parts of women's and men's clothes too worn in some places to be useful in their original forms.

An old sweater worn in places can be unravelled and reknit into a new one of a smaller size.

One group made boys' blouses and little girls' dresses from large flour and sugar bags.

Little boys' suits have been made out of discarded automobile covers and couch covers.

Shoes for little children can be made out of old felt bats. The Clothing Committee has patterns.

One group makes children's jackets out of upholstery samples. Portieres and couch covers also have been used.

Mittens can be made out of socks and of blanket samples. The Clothing Committee has patterns.

3. Use of remnants and samples

Remnants on the shelves of a local store can often be purchased for a fraction of their original cost, or even donated by a sympathetic owner. Perhaps these will make girls' dresses and boys' shirts. For a little boy's suit, the blouse may be of

one material, the trousers of another, thus using small remnants. A dress for a little girl also may be made of two materials. The modern American girl likes "patch work" dresses and skirts.

One group collected tailors' samples and made blankets from the wool pieces by sewing them down to a cotton flannel back.

Very small remnants, whether wool or cotton, can be put together as "patch work" and used for quilt tops. Scraps left after cutting out skirts or coats can be used in this way. One group collected woolen rags and had them made into blankets by a local mill.

Crocheted rugs can be made from long scraps of material or old stockings.

4. Bedding

Crib sheets can be made from the strong parts of old sheets.

A blanket for a baby can be made from the strong part of a worn blanket. Blanket stitch or bind the edges.

Fillings for quilts can be (1) old quilts too worn for use unless recovered, (2) old blankets no longer good enough to be used as blankets, (3) woolen pieces—good parts of worn out blankets, old coats, trousers, skirts, dresses. Discarded summer covers for furniture make good quilt tops and backs.

Odds and ends of knitting wool knit into squares, or strips, then crocheted together, make pretty afghans for babies. Nice work for little girls who want to help.

5. Shoe repair

Collect old shoes. The cooperation of a local shoemaker can often be had. Sometimes he will

fully contribute his work if materials are paid for. A good project for men who want to help.

6. New clothing

This can sometimes be obtained from manufacturers, jobbers, and retail merchants. A good project for men who can get the interest of other business men.

7. Soap

Collect odd pieces or make soap from fats. The Clothing Committee has a soap recipe.

8. Hand bags.

Hand bags in good condition containing hair pins, bobby pins, powder, and other feminine articles find happy owners among evacuated women in England. Needles and thread might also be included with the toilet articles.

9. Toys.

Renovating toys, dressing dolls, cutting jig saw puzzles, fashioning little wooden trucks, airplanes, etc., can be lots of fun for the boys and girls (of all ages!) who do the work, as well as for the boys and girls to whom the gifts will be sent.

Soft toy animals can be made from scraps of print goods, upholstery or drapery samples. The Clothing Committee has patterns.

10. Raising money to purchase materials and pay transportation charges.

Groups and individuals make money in various ways. Some of these are: (1) rummage sales of various kinds of clothing unsuitable for the Committee's work, as for instance, high-heeled shoes and evening dresses; (2) white elephant sales; (3) collecting and selling old magazines and newspapers.

Stretching Minds and Hearts

Certain groups as they sew or knit their "stitches of love and mercy" for the work of the American Friends Service Committee, use that time to study and think about the implications of the work they are doing. Why is this work necessary? (The answer is not as simple as it appears). How can they help to bring about a just and durable peace? What can their group do to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to their own community—to the world?

One member of the group reads from a carefully selected book, or the members take turns reading. Or someone leads a discussion or gives a book review. If the sewing machines are humming, reading and discussion take place during lunch or tea, or in a period set aside for hand work.

In this way the members of the group stretch their minds to think beyond themselves—to consider thoughtfully the problems of their own community and of the world community.

Some groups have used their work for the American Friends Service Committee as a means of bringing together in a social way people who otherwise might not become acquainted—people from different churches; employees of a business who know each other only in their work; local citizens of different national or racial heritages; newcomers to our shores who fled the persecution of Europe in the 20th Century and those whose ancestors sought religious liberty in America in the 17th century.

In this way the members of the group stretch their hearts to include in their social thinking (as well as in the gifts made with their hands), people of all creeds, all races, all colors, all nationalities.

Please note: Correspondence should be directed to A. F. S. C. Offices (listed at upper half of this page); gifts of clothing and other relief materials should be sent to A. F. S. C. Storerooms (listed at lower half of this page).

A. F. S. C. OFFICES

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CLOTHING COMMITTEE, A.F.S.C.

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A. F. S. C. STOREROOMS

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STOREROOM, A.F.S.C.

501 North Raymond Avenue
Pasadena, California

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

2151 Vine Street
Berkeley, California

FRIENDS' CENTER

3959 - 15th Avenue, N.E.
Seattle, Washington

For New York City and Vicinity ONLY

FRIENDS' CENTER

144 East 20th Street
New York, N. Y.

The work of the American Friends Service Committee is a work of love for all regardless of race, color, creed, or nationality. Any person of good will is invited to share in this service of bringing gifts of comfort to a few of the world's sufferers.